

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Ico THIEME

Serial No. (unknown)

Filed herewith

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DIGITALLY  
EDITING A COMPOSITE IMAGE e.g.  
A CARD WITH THE FACE OF A USER  
INSERTED THEREIN AND FOR  
SURVEILLANCE PURPOSES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the first Official Action and calculation  
of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified applica-  
tion as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 9 as follows

9. (Amended) A method according to Claim 7,  
characterized in that, for providing the "first image" or  
virtual, valid "reference background" used in the following  
cropping two-image step e), in said working file Back0) said  
respective "taken background" (Fig. 5B) is stored, wherein

between the image held in the first working file  
(Back0) and the preceding images held in the other working  
files (from Back1 to Back5), the chromatic similitudes of  
the pixels arranged at the same locations are searched and,  
if for each pixel of the working file (Back0) a  
corresponding twin pixel is found in at least two images of  
the previous working files (from Back1 to Back 5), then said

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